



Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Newsletter

What's New and What's News in Clean Fuels? Volume 2 – Winter 2003

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Program Plan Submitted to Headquarters:

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Program Plan has made it to Headquarters of the Department of Energy. Region IV DOE approved the draft program plan in January 2003. The Plan was forwarded to Headquarters for review by the National Clean Cities Program. The coordinators have been notified that comments from National are ready and will be returned to the Coalition. Comments will be sent to the Program Plan Review Workgroup for action and will be available upon request to any stakeholder. Copies of the Program Plan submitted to Headquarters and the upcoming comments are available electronically by contacting LeAnn Herren at herren@environ.sc.edu.

Coalition Website on the Internet:

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition has opened its first website. On this site you can read more about the goals of the Coalition and the National Clean Cities Program, contact the coordinators, access national alternative fuels sites and (one approved) be able to download the program plan. Thanks to Chris Howard of USC for designing the fun logo! Come and see us on the web at <http://environ.sc.edu/index.html>, then click on Clean Fuels. Make sure to put us in your bookmarks and check back often for updates.

Ozone Early Action Plan Approved:

Jim Joy, Chief DHEC Bureau of Air Quality, announced an agreement between EPA and county governments to implement an early action plan for meeting the national 8-hour ground-level ozone standard sooner than required. As of December 2002, 45 counties had signed agreements to develop and implement plans for reducing pollutants that form ground-level ozone. Joy was pleased by the opportunity to challenge the problem with coordinated efforts at the local and state level. Bureau staff will continue to work with local officials, interested stakeholders and other state and federal agencies to develop necessary strategies to create local early action plans. Joy said, "Achieving 'Cleaner Air Sooner' efforts are moving forward and we hope to build on the early success to continue improving our air quality". For more information about the 'Cleaner Air Sooner'

program and how you can participate, contact Henry Phillips at 803/898-3260 or phillimh@dhec.sc.gov. For current information on meetings and other activities, visit the agency's web site at www.scdhec.net/baq/eap.html

Agency Air Workgroup Formed:

SCDHEC has formed the Clean Air Initiatives for Government Entities (CAIGE) workgroup. The workgroup is charged with developing, implementing and marketing a plan for reducing pollution emission by state government agencies that will support the efforts of the Early Action Stat Implementation Plan. The agency plan, to include guidelines, policies and outreach materials will then be used as a model for local governments to consider. In addition the workgroup is reviewing a draft Executive Order and Concurrent Resolution both recognizing the CAIGE and supporting the participation of state agencies in the efforts to reduce emissions of ozone forming air pollutants. The next meeting of the CAIGE is February 26, 2:00-4:00 at the Bull Street office of SCDHEC. Contact Michael Monroe for more information at 803/898-3261 or monroemc@dhec.sc.gov.

National Ethanol Vehicle in Charlotte:

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition's annual board and membership meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2003 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in conjunction with the 2003 Commodity Classic in Charlotte, North Carolina. The meeting will be held in the Johnson Room at the Charlotte Hilton and Towers at 222 East Third Street. Spears will address the status of ethanol usage and outline new initiatives for advancing ethanol usage and outline new initiatives for advancing ethanol use and vehicle production. For additional information contact Randa Barker at rbarker@e85fuel.com or 573/635-8445.

NC/SC Sustainability Group:

Starting Spring 2002, the local governments in the Charlotte Metropolitan Region began working with the EPA to develop an integrated strategy to address air quality, environmental issues, transportation, land-use planning, energy and economic development called the Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life (SEQL). This would be the first integrated strategy in the nation. The Catawba Regional and Centralina Councils of Governments, in South Carolina and North Carolina respectively, will lead the efforts. The project will extend through 2005, with products to include the implementation of measures across the region and the development of an integrated strategy with appropriate tools that communities across the county can use as a model to address quality of life and environmental issues. For more information on the efforts, contact Wendy Bell at wbell@catawbacog.org or 803/327-9041.

DHEC Challenge Alternative Commute:

The SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality challenges other stakeholders to "Take a Break from the Exhaust" with their new effort to reduce the amount of pollution caused by mobile sources. The Take a Break from the Exhaust (TABFTE) program promote voluntary, behavioral adjustments by allowing staff to take advantage of a wide variety of alternative commute options such as ridesharing, telecommuting, flex-scheduling, mass transit, biking, walking and alternative work scheduling. While not all the options will work for every stakeholder company, or every employee, TABFTE can be customized for each office. Even when these

options are not available, employees are encouraged to reduce commuter emissions by staying in or walking to lunch. Employees benefit from the program through reduced cost for fuel, routine maintenance and repairs on their vehicles. While the program focuses primarily on the ozone season (May 1 – September 30), behavioral changes can improve the air every day. Last year, the Bureau of Air Quality had an internal competition to see how much they could “spare the air” from commuter miles – this year they invite Coalition stakeholders to join the efforts. For more information on joining the TABFTE effort, or to design a similar program at your facility, contact Jack Porter at 803/898-3829 or porterje@dhec.sc.gov.

Energy Star Internet Training:

An Internet presentation “Achieve Energy Performance Goals for New Building Design” will be available Thursday March 13 2:00-2:45 p.m. EST. The presentation describes how to use ENERGY STAR’s software tool Target Finder and the LEED rating system. Decisions makers will learn how to set realistic goals for energy use and how to compare energy design simulations to top performing buildings. To register for this training or others, simply go to <http://energystar.imeet.com/regeval/calendar.asp>.

Santee Cooper Offering Alternative Fuel:

Santee Cooper kicked off the New Year by requiring the use of E85 and B20 blend bio-diesel fuels in their fleet. The company installed three 1000 gallon above ground E85 refueling sites and have used 9000 gallons since the sites were opened in October 2002. The electric utility uses significant quantities of the B20 blend bio-diesel in its heavy-duty vehicles, having pumped 75,000 gallons since 2002. Vehicles currently operating on B20 include bucket trucks, digger derricks, flatbed trucks and truck-tractors. For more information about the Santee Cooper fuels program, contact David Vanosdoll at dkvanosd@santeecooper.com.

Margaret Owens New Position:

Margaret Owens, formerly of the South Carolina Soybean Board, has joined the Public Policy Group at 1441 Main Street, Suite 1000, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. Her new phone number is 803/771-8900 - extension 3038 and her new e-mail address mowens@tppg.com. Give her a call and you can hear all about the new efforts she will be leading on behalf of the environment in South Carolina. While we in the Coalition will miss Margaret, we wish her all the best in her new position. Congratulations!